

HEROES OF THE FAITH

ELIJAH: Goes to Heaven

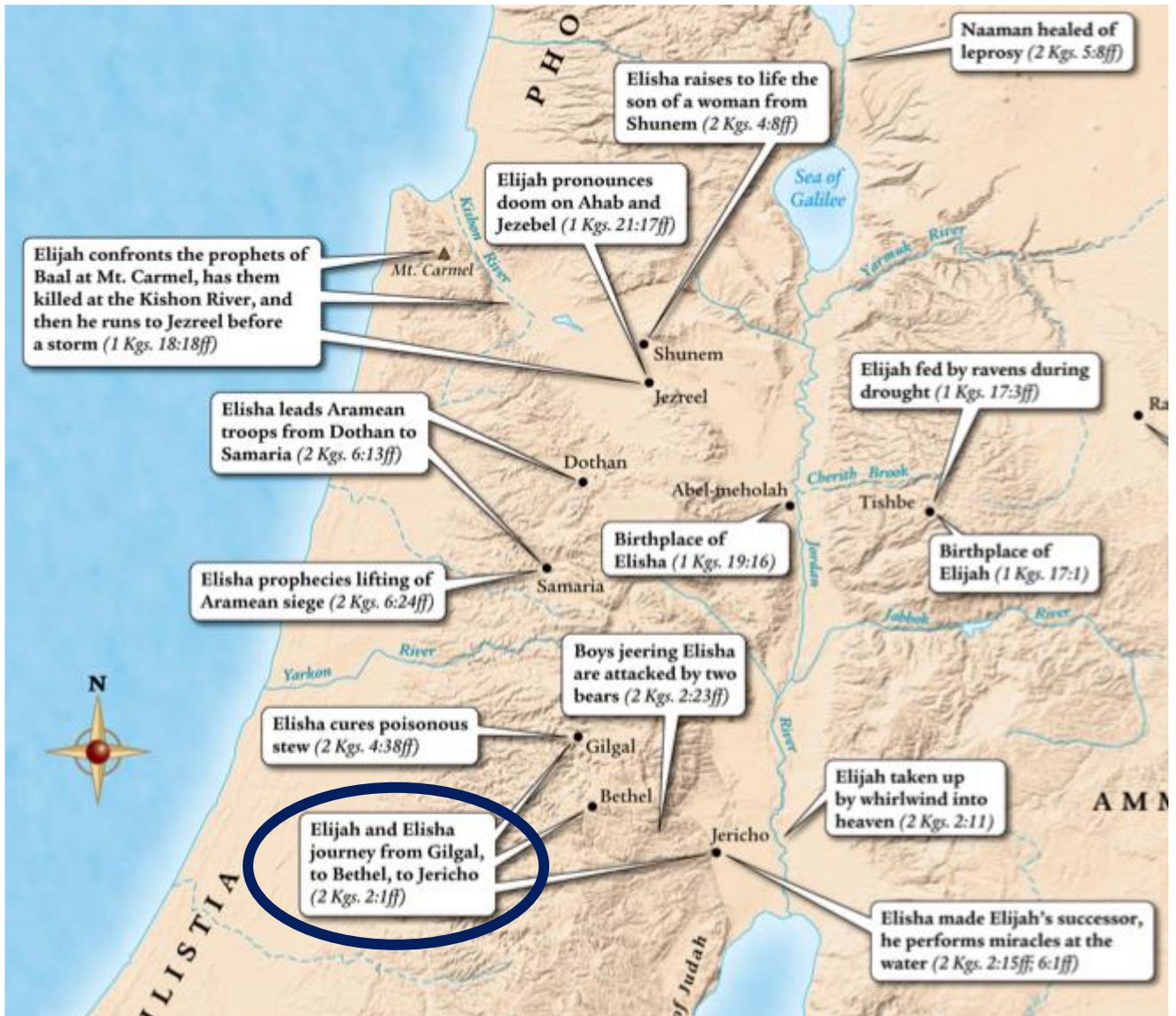
2 Kings 2

7 October 2020

Themes: Prophetic transition; Discipleship's power

- "...LORD..." (v. 1)
 - ❖ Jehovah/YHWEH
 - ❖ Self existent; eternal God
- "...up to heaven..."
 - ❖ In ancient Israel, this idea was not common.
 - ❖ {OT} Normally speaks of going to "*Sheol*."
 - Place of the dead.
 - The grave.
 - "...going down to..."
 - 1 Samuel 2:6; Job 7:9; Isaiah 57:9
 - ❖ Elijah (v. 11) & Enoch (Genesis 5:22-24; Hebrews 11:5) are exceptions to this.
 - ❖ {NT} Jesus offered hope of continued fellowship with God after death.
 - Matthew 22:32
 - Luke 16:22-25
 - Matthew 17:3
- ...“Please stay here...” (v. 2) { *see map* }
 - ❖ Elijah's meaning is unclear. The importance, and power, of discipleship.
 - ❖ Elisha's commitment is not in question. (vv. 2, 4, 6; Ruth 1:16-17)
- "...sons of the prophets in Bethel (*see map*)..." (v. 3)
 - ❖ ...not physical descendants; usually affiliated with a more prominent prophet.
 - ❖ ...when associated with God's prophets, seen as God's servants.
 - ❖ ...God revealed truth to them.
- (vv. 4-5)
 - ❖ Elijah's plea. (vv. 2, 4, 6)
 - ❖ Elisha's response. (vv. 2, 4, 6; Ruth 1:16-17)
 - ❖ God revealed truth to the sons of prophets. (v. 5)





Naaman healed of leprosy (2 Kgs. 5:8ff)

Elisha raises to life the son of a woman from Shunem (2 Kgs. 4:8ff)

Elijah pronounces doom on Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kgs. 21:17ff)

Elijah confronts the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel, has them killed at the Kishon River, and then he runs to Jezreel before a storm (1 Kgs. 18:18ff)

Elijah fed by ravens during drought (1 Kgs. 17:3ff)

Elisha leads Aramean troops from Dothan to Samaria (2 Kgs. 6:13ff)

Birthplace of Elisha (1 Kgs. 19:16)

Birthplace of Elijah (1 Kgs. 17:1)

Elisha prophecies lifting of Aramean siege (2 Kgs. 6:24ff)

Boys jeering Elisha are attacked by two bears (2 Kgs. 2:23ff)

Elisha cures poisonous stew (2 Kgs. 4:38ff)

Elijah taken up by whirlwind into heaven (2 Kgs. 2:11)

Elijah and Elisha journey from Gilgal, to Bethel, to Jericho (2 Kgs. 2:1ff)

Elisha made Elijah's successor, he performs miracles at the water (2 Kgs. 2:15ff; 6:1ff)

➤ (vv. 6-8)

- ❖ From Gilgal (v. 1), to Bethel (v. 2), to Jericho (v. 4), to the Jordan River. (v. 6)
- ❖ Elisha's commitment to Elijah does not waiver. (v. 6)
- ❖ Their following grows. (v. 7)
- ❖ The scene. (v. 8)
 - The bank of the Jordan River.
 - The power of God.
 - Akin to Moses & Israel at the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:15-31)
 - Comparison: Moses to Joshua / Elijah to Elisha



➤ (vv. 9-14)

- ❖ Elisha's unusual request. (v. 9)
 - "...*double portion*..." (Deuteronomy 21:15-17)
 - The inheritance is not land; rather, spiritual power – being "spirit-filled".
 - Spiritual power far beyond his own strengths & capabilities.
 - Elisha has forsaken all for Elijah to disciple him.
- ❖ Elijah's answer. The divine prerogative. (v. 10)
- ❖ Elijah's ascension to heaven. (v. 11)
- ❖ "Theophany": A manifestation of God to man. (vv. 11-12)
- ❖ Elisha's mantle of leadership & the Holy Spirit's power. (vv. 13-14)
 - The source of power is the Holy Spirit, not the man, or the cloak.
 - Parallel: Moses (Exodus 14) & Joshua (Joshua 3) with Elijah & Elisha.

➤ Leadership succession, prophetic recognition, & God's power. (vv. 15-24)

- ❖ Jericho's prophet leaders acknowledge Elisha as God's new prophet. (v. 15)
- ❖ Jericho's allegiance to Elijah/Elisha is driven through the "sons of prophets."
- ❖ Sons of prophets: Allegiance is firm. Comprehension is not. (vv. 16-18)
 - The search. (vv. 16-17) The clarity. (v. 18)
- ❖ The problem; and, the cure. (vv. 19-22)
 - City, water, land. (vv. 19-21)
 - The cure (vv. 21-22; Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34).
 - ✓ Symbolism: Elisha, new bowl, & salt.
- ❖ Bethel, the focal point of Israel's apostasy. Public insult against God. (vv. 23-24)
- ❖ Elisha's prophetic succession complete. (v. 25)

